

Micah Simonds, 5, tries his hand at the controls at the Town of Herndon's Big Truck Days Friday, May 3.

Herndon Holds Big Truck Days

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



Children explore some of the Town of Herndon's heavy equipment during Big Truck Days Friday, May 3 at the town's Public Works Maintenance Complex.

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Town Holds Big Truck Days

Children invited to explore equipment at Public Works Maintenance Complex.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon opened up its Public Works Maintenance Complex and its large vehicles May 2 and 3 for the annual Big Truck Days. The event gave families and children a chance to explore some of the town's heavy maintenance equipment.

"My kids are always the ones on the playgrounds that go from piece to piece just crawling around and exploring every inch of the place, so I figured this would be an ideal environment for them," said Rachel Hinkel of Herndon, who brought her son and daughter. "We've been here for two hours so far, and they've been on almost every single piece of equipment, so I'd say it's been a success."

Dump trucks, loaders, bulldozers and more were all open and on display during the two days, and children also received a plastic helmet and other souvenirs when they entered.



Grace Przybysz, 3, takes the wheel of a four-wheel drive rubber tire loader at the Town of Herndon's Big Truck Days Friday, May 3.



From left, Blake Gonzalez, 5, James Doan, 5, Ryland McKelvy, 5, and Maddie Murray, 4, take a break in the scoop of a bulldozer at the Town of Herndon's Big Truck Days Friday, May 3.

Susan Bennett of Herndon said her daughter Samantha, 4, doesn't have the typical interests of a girl her age, so the event was perfect for them.

"She only has a few dolls and they don't get much attention, but she's always been interested in the same toys her brother, who's four years older had, the Tonka trucks and models of other construction equipment," she said. "And as soon as we got here, she ran into line for one of the dump trucks, jumped into the driver's seat and seemed right at home."

Several children took the time to pose on the truck with a snow plow attachment painted with the colors and logo of the Herndon High School Hornets. When children got tired of waiting in line to climb on each piece of equipment, they could rest on one of the picnic tables set up, or in the scoop of one of the bulldozers.

"My son said he wanted to sit down for a little bit, but then he started walking away from the tables, and into the front of one of the bulldozers," said Sam Kelsey of Herndon. "I guess for a big piece of metal that's used to move dirt and stuff around, it looked pretty comfortable to him."

Billy Schemp, 5, was able to climb behind the wheel of five different machines throughout the day Friday, but wasn't able to get into the one he really wanted.

"As we came up, I could see the truck with the big crane all the way from the parking lot, and I really wanted to try that one out," he said. "But that was the only one that wasn't open."

David Stovall stands by his photo "Ocean City, Maryland," which won third place in the competition.

PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/
THE CONNECTION



ArtSpace Herndon Hosts Photographers' Artists Reception

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

ArtSpace Herndon held an artists reception for the annual Fine Art Photography Exhibit, featuring the finalists of the 2013 Fine Art Photography Competition Saturday night, April 27. The photos of 35 regional photographers are showcased in this display.

The finalists were selected by juror Barry Schmetter, a Washington D.C.-based photographer, teacher and event director for Artomatic 2012. Cash awards for first, second and third place were announced during the reception.

"The diversity of the photography just blew me away when I walked in here," said exhibiting photographer Sandra Blake. Blake also participated in the competition last year. This year there was an increase in the number of submitted photo pieces.

Now residing in North Carolina, Blake previously resided in the town of Herndon. Blake's photo, "Captured by the Light," was taken in Maryland at the last standing silt mill in the US. "It was taken in October 2012 just before I moved."

John Biddle and his daughter Joan Biddle also participated in this year's exhibit and have their photos on display. Mr. Biddle has found photogra-

phy an enjoyable pastime in his retirement. "I've done straight lines and straight corners all my life, so this is interesting!"

Later Schmetter announced the winning competitors and honorable mentions.

Third place was awarded to photographer Dave B. Stovall for his photo "Ocean City, Maryland."

"This was taken back in October on a vacation," said Stovall. "I shot this with a view camera and color transparency. I saw this [location] the previous day and came back at five in the morning and shot it."

Second place was given to photographer Rahshia Linendoll-Sawyer for her photo "We Are Not Made of Wood." First place was awarded to photographer Peter Toth for his photograph titled "Solitude."

"This is part of a series that I shot last year," said Toth. "I try to make each picture look like a painting. Some of my pictures are even more impressionistic. That one is one of a series of people walking on the beach, the sun is just coming up and the people were wearing bright colors. That just added to the impact."

Many of the works on display at the exhibit are available for purchase. The photos will continue to be on display until Sunday, May 26.



Competition juror Barry Schmetter stands by Peter Toth's photograph, "Solitude," which was awarded first place in the competition.

Town Passes FY2014 Budget

Budget up 7.3 percent from last year, calls for no tax increases.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Town Council passed the budget for Fiscal Year 2014, which will take effect on July 1 of this year. The \$49,603,300 budget reflects an increase of 7.3 percent of the FY2013 budget.

Mayor Lisa Merkel called it a “conservative, safe, comfortable budget.”

The town’s real estate, meals, cigarette, business, professional and occupational license tax, motor vehicle and consumer utility tax rate will all remain the same, as will sewer and water service rates.

“We had some excellent work sessions, and excellent Q and A sessions, I think this represents a well thought out budget,” said Councilmember Grace Wolf. “We’re lucky that the town’s assets are doing relatively well compared to our neighbors and that we’re able to have good services for extremely good rates and I’m very pleased that we’re able to leave our tax rates the same. It puts us in good position in case of a future potential economic downturn or if sequestration continues.”

Councilmember Shelia Olem credited town staff with being “very good stewards of the town” by coming up with a budget that maintains rates, unlike other localities, including Fairfax County, without cutting staff or services.

THE COUNCIL had discussed lowering the real estate tax rate, currently at \$0.265 per \$100 of assessed real estate value, by one penny but decided any loss of services would not be worth the lower tax rate.

“We have not had a single person come forward and ask us to lower the tax rate, at least on the record,” Merkel said. “I would love to lower the tax rate as much as anybody, but I don’t think this is the right time, I’d like to do it when it might actually have a big impact for residents. I don’t think anyone would be jumping for joy if we lowered the tax rate, cut services and saved them [as calculated by town staff] an average of \$2.66 a month.”

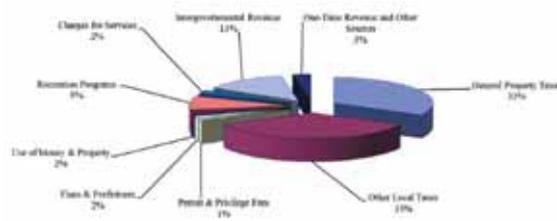
Town Manager Art Anselene said several revenue sources emerged during the budget planning process that were not in the early drafts, including an additional \$77,000 from Fairfax County to offset stormwater management operating and maintenance costs.

He also said the town’s business, professional and occupational license (BPOL) tax income, which was collected March 1, proved to be an increase over last year, which was unexpected given the sequestration cutbacks.

“After this spring’s collection, we’ve seen BPOL fees increase by 10 percent over last year’s collection, which represents a 30 percent increase of what we were anticipating budgeting for the upcoming fiscal year,” Anselene said. “With new businesses relocating into the town, we feel more confident in saying the BPOL fees can be increased by \$230,000 to meet additional objectives of the council within the budget.”

He said one of the objectives was for a “pay for

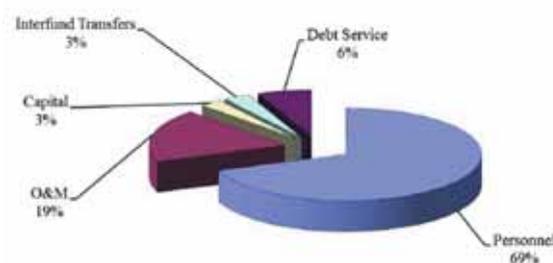
Revenues by Source
General Fund (FY 2014)



The proposed revenues for the Town of Herndon’s FY2014 budget.

CONTRIBUTED

Expenditures by Category
General Fund (FY 2014)



The proposed expenditures for the Town of Herndon’s FY2014 budget.

Y2014 Budget Highlights

- Real Estate Tax: Remains at \$0.2650 per \$100 of assessed value.
- Average Residential Real Estate Tax Bill: \$843.39 based on \$0.2650 per \$100 assessed value.
- Personal Property Tax Rate: Remains at \$0.00 per \$100 assessed value.
- Meals Tax: Remains at 2.5 percent.
- Cigarette Tax: Remains at \$0.75 per pack.
- Business, Professional and Occupational License Tax: All classifications and thresholds remain at the current amounts.
- Motor Vehicle License Fee: Remains at \$25 for private passenger and other vehicles weighing less than 4,000 lbs; and \$32 for vehicles weighing in excess of 4,000 lbs.
- Sewer Service Rate: Base rate remains at \$5.05 per 1,000 gallons of water consumption. Peak rate remains at \$1.70.
- Sewer Availability Fee: Remains at \$7,490 for new, single-family homes.
- Sewer Lateral Repair and Replacement Program: Remains at \$2 per year (\$0.50 per quarter).
- Water Service Rate: Base rate remains at \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons of water consumption. Peak rate remains at \$3.50.
- Water Availability Fee: Remains at \$4,863 for new, single-family homes.
- Recycling Fee: Remains at \$16 per year (\$4 per quarter).

performance” system for town employees, which would reward employees for exemplary service, also in keeping with the town’s “Count On Us” customer service initiative.

“We have gone back and looked at overall compensation throughout the public sector in Northern Virginia, and looking back over the last five years the town is right at the bottom of the list in terms of compensation increase provided to employees,” Anselene said. “Increases range from a 20 percent to 200 percent increase above what we’ve been able to do. The increased revenue we think provides an op

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 7



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Vendors set up tables and stands along Station Street in the Town of Herndon for the Thursday farmers market.

Farmers Markets Open in Herndon

Thursdays are Herndon Fun Days from July 11 to Aug. 29.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Thursday, May 2, marked the opening of two farmers markets in Herndon, one in the Town of Herndon, and the other at Frying Pan Farm Park. Fairfax County has been a strong supporter of local farmers markets. As stated on their webpage, products sold at farmers markets are produced by vendors within 125 miles of Fairfax County.

Town of Herndon forester John Dudzinsky, who supervises operations of the town’s farmers market, said: “We have extended our hours from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. as we are trying to get more of the lunch time crowds. We have 13 vendors

total, lots of produce, vegetables, plants, baked goods and fruits. Next week, starting on May 9, we will have some music entertainment, and that will occur once a month. We will have kids Famer’s Market Fun Days which will start July 11.”

The Herndon Fun Days will be on Thursdays from July 11 to Aug. 29 with performances from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. at the Town Green on 777 Lynn Street. The performances will be free and open to the public. “The Town of Herndon is committed to having a successful market,” said Dudzinsky.

Vendor Brad McCleaf from McCleaf Orchard said, “This is our first time setting up in

SEE OPENING DAY, PAGE 7



Diane Weiss holds a loaf of bread at the Grace’s Pastries stand at the Herndon farmers market.



Sessou Nsougan sells baked goods to customers at his stand at Frying Pan Park.

THE COUNTY LINE



Lani Hay (right), president of Vienna-based Lanmark Technology Inc., made the 2013 Women Presidents' Organization list of fastest-growing women-owned companies in the U.S. In 2011, Lanmark partnered with ELLE Magazine to raise awareness among military families on suicide prevention. At the event, Hay was joined by guests Roberta Myers, editor-in-chief of ELLE Magazine (left), and Creative Coalition President Tim Daly (center).

Senator Tim Kaine (D-Va) honors Christopher and Mary Beth Romani, co-founders of Integrity Management Consulting of McLean, which topped the 2013 Virginia Chamber of Commerce list as the fastest-growing company in the state. The "Fantastic 50" banquet was held April 25 at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Women Mean Business

Two fastest-growing woman-led firms in North America call Fairfax County home.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

In the two months since the much-hyped and dreaded sequester took effect, the daily economic forecast has been almost as painful as the slow grinding of bureaucratic wheels.

But here's some good economic news, especially for aspiring female entrepreneurs: the numbers are in your favor.

A recent study by American Express OPEN, the small-business division of American Express, determined the number of women-owned businesses nationwide has increased 59 percent since 1997. In the United States, there are an estimated 8.1 million women-owned businesses that contribute \$1.3 trillion to the national economy and employ 7.7 million people, according to Forbes magazine.

Fairfax County businesswomen are part of that trend.

Two Fairfax County-based companies made the 2013 list of the 50 fastest-growing woman-owned or led companies in North America by the Women Presidents' Organization (WPO)—a peer advisory organization for women entrepreneurs.

One is Vienna-based Lanmark Technology Inc. (number nine on the list), whose president and CEO is Lani Hay. The other is Chantilly-based Ampcus, Inc. (number 36 on the list), founded by Anjali "Ann" Ramakumaran.

"We are very proud to be the home of Ampcus and Lanmark Technology and their leadership. Anyone can become a successful business person in Fairfax County," said Gerald L. Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Au-

thority (FCEDA).

"It requires talent, a good business plan, and plenty of hard work. Irrelevant factors such as gender are just that: irrelevant. It is part of what makes Fairfax County such a great place to live and work," Gordon added.

More than 34,000 women-owned businesses exist in Fairfax County, including more than 4,400 firms with paid employees, according to the Survey of Women-Owned Businesses. Women-owned businesses generated \$4.7 billion in sales revenue in 2007 alone, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

IN INCREASING NUMBERS, women-owned companies are making their mark and competing nationally in traditionally male-dominated industries, such as cybersecurity, homeland defense, biometrics and scientific program development, such as Lanmark and Ampcus, both high-tech consulting firms.

"Having this kind of dynamic and entrepreneurial business community yields job opportunities and further enhances the quality of life in Fairfax County," said Gerald L. Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA).

All companies that submitted nominations for the WPO list were ranked according to a sales growth formula that combines percentage and absolute growth. To be qualified for the ranking, businesses were required to be privately held, woman-owned or led companies in the U.S. or Canada and have annual revenue of at least \$500,000 in 2007 and \$2 million in 2012.

During the past decade or two, organizations have formed to help women entrepreneurs build the networks they need to succeed as high-growth companies. Women Presidents' Organization is a peer advisory group for women presidents of multimillion-dollar companies. In February, the WPO launched a Northern Virginia chapter in McLean during which WPO Founder and President Marsha Firestone hosted a

roundtable discussion.

"I am confident this chapter of powerful women will help the region's women business leaders accelerate the growth of their businesses through peer support from women like themselves and promote economic security for themselves and their employees," Firestone said during the launch.

Women-owned businesses are also doing well across the state. The Virginia Chamber of Commerce recently announced its "Fantastic 50" ranking of the fastest-growing businesses in Virginia, and many of those on the list are women-owned businesses, including Kore Federal, RFID Global Solution, Knowledge Link and Trusted Mission Solutions. Twenty-five Fairfax County companies were listed on the "Fantastic 50" list.

The Virginia Chamber honored all 50 companies at a banquet held April 25 at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly.

"This list is one indicator that Fairfax County continues to be an exceptional location for companies that are growing and becoming increasingly successful," Gordon said.

Integrity Management Consulting of McLean, which supports federal agencies with acquisition and program management, topped the list as the fastest-growing company in the state. Between 2008 and 2011, Integrity posted a growth rate of 2,165 percent.

Founded in 2006 by Christopher and Mary Beth Romani, Integrity has grown from two to almost 100 employees and now has a satellite office in Fort Worth, Texas.

"As a life-long Virginian, the Fantastic 50 Vanguard Award means so much to me," said Chris Romani.

"It's gratifying that our small business is able to contribute to the economic growth of our region and create jobs that sustain families and communities, while at the same time supporting customer missions of na-

FAIRFAX COUNTY COMPANIES ON THE 2013 FANTASTIC 50 LIST

1. Integrity Management Consulting, Inc. Tysons Corner
3. Veris Group, LLC Tysons Corner
6. 3Pillar Global Fairfax
7. Kore Federal Tysons Corner
13. Octo Consulting Group Tysons Corner
14. First Virginia Community Bank Fairfax
17. XLA Springfield
18. Agilex Technologies Inc. Chantilly
19. Three Wire Systems, LLC Falls Church
20. RFID Global Solution, Inc. Reston
22. Zantech IT Services, Inc. Tysons Corner
24. C2 Solutions Group, Inc. Reston
26. Knowledge Link, Inc. Herndon
27. Technatomy Corporation Fairfax
28. Data Networks Corporation Reston
29. ConceptSolutions, LLC Reston
30. Eagle Ray Inc. Chantilly
33. MetroStar Systems Reston
34. Kinsey Technical Services, Inc. Chantilly
35. TeraThink Corporation Reston
38. Cetrom Information Technology, Inc. Tysons Corner
42. National Corporate Housing Herndon
43. Trusted Mission Solutions Inc. Tysons Corner
46. Search Technologies Herndon
47. U.S. Information Technologies Corporation Chantilly

tional importance," said Mary Beth Romani.

THE VIRGINIA "FANTASTIC 50" is the only statewide awards program to rank leading businesses across the commonwealth in all types of industries. Companies must be privately held with headquarters in Virginia, and demonstrate positive year-over-year revenue growth and net income when judged on four-year sales revenue history.

"We are immensely proud to be recognized as the leading company for growth in the state, and it's especially meaningful to achieve continued growth at a time when there remains uncertainty in the economy and in federal spending," said Christopher Romani. "We have remained focused on doing excellent work and recruiting top talent to support our customers. We've succeeded by competing on our strengths."

"The entire Commonwealth of Virginia benefits from the success of these businesses through additional income taxes that support programs statewide," said Gordon, a member of the Virginia Chamber Board of Directors.

For the complete Virginia "Fantastic 50" list, visit www.virginiabusiness.com. For information on membership in the WPO, contact Chapter Chair Renee Lewis at renee.lewis@pensaregroup.com or 301-332-4677 or go to www.womenpresidentsorg.com.

Opening Day

FROM PAGE 3

Herndon. Our main products will be apples and peaches. We will be bringing mainly fruit because other vendors will be selling vegetable produce. Later we will bring strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries." Like most of the vendors, McCleaf Orchard attends other farmers markets in the D.C. area.

Manny Medina from J&W Valley View Farm also attended this year's opening day of the Herndon farmers market. His parents operate 42 acres of land in Montross, Va. Early season crops for their farm include spring onions, lettuce, spinach and radishes. "The

main crop plant we have are tomatoes, we have over five varieties ... business will pick up when school lets out."

The same day, Frying Pan Farm Park marked the first day of their farmers market. Sessou Nsougan, who has been selling baked goods including bread and scones at Frying Pan farmers market for more than seven years, titled his products "Becky's Pastries" after his daughter. On the opening day there were only three vendors attending the farmers market at Frying Pan.

Yvonne Johnson, park manager, said: "We changed the day of our market, and we are going through

a transition phase adjusting to a new day and time. ... We used to do Wednesday morning, and now we moved it to Thursday afternoon. The nice thing about that is that starting in June patrons can stay and enjoy the concert. ... We have a concert series in June, July and August."

For more than 10 years there have been farmers markets held at Frying Pan Park. Operations for farmers markets are centralized and organized through staff at Green Spring Gardens Park located in Alexandria. "They help spread out different producers and which markets they will be at," said Johnson.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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Budget

FROM PAGE 3

portunity for the council to commend the excellent work from the town employees."

THE PAY FOR PERFORMANCE system would involve an employee evaluation on the anniver-

sary of their hire date, and high evaluations would lead to a raise.

Councilmember Melissa Jonas said that was a major plus in this year's budget.

"I feel pretty good about having that nest egg so we can do something for our staff," she said.

The full budget will be posted online at www.herndon-va.gov by June 30.

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OPINION

Some Limits, More Disclosure

Virginia does not benefit from elected officials being awash in cash donations and gifts.

It seems prescient now. Virginia's "corruption risk report card" in March 2012 ranked the state 47 out of 50, with an overall grade of "F." That's "F" for failing, mostly because Virginia is one of four states that place no limits on political contributions at all.

Virginia got a failing grade for vulnerability to corruption. Corruption in the commonwealth is probably not any more rampant than voter fraud, as we said last year. But in terms of practices that could undermine trust, Virginia has vast room for improvement.

It turns out that unlimited contributions and gifts with some reporting loopholes is not good for government, not good for the public, especially not good for elected officials as recent news about state elected officials and gifts well demonstrate. It could be better for businesses to have some limits as well.

The National Conference of State Legislatures www.ncsl.org summarizes how states handle contributions: "States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees and political parties. Just four states — Missouri, Oregon, Utah and Virginia — place no limits on contributions at all. Another seven states — Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas — have minimal contribution limits. These states limit or prohibit contributions by corporations and unions to candidates, but leave contributions from all other sources unlimited. In the remaining 39 states, contributions to candidates from individuals, political

parties, PACs, corporations and unions are typically limited or, in the case of corporations and unions, prohibited outright."

In Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to any one candidate and \$10,000 total in a four-year election cycle. You don't have corporations and CEOs giving \$100,000 and more in an election cycle.

From 2009-2013, Dominion has made \$2,838,506 in political contributions to candidates and committees, 58 percent of it to Republicans, 39 percent to Democrats, according to the Virginia Public Access Project www.vpap.org.

In 2012, Pepco donated \$2,000 to Friends of Martin O'Malley, Maryland's governor, \$10,000 to the state Democratic committee and \$5,000 to the state Republican committee.

In 2013, Pepco's total contributions currently reported are \$2,000.

In 2013, Dominion Resources' total contributions currently reported are \$450,000.

In 2010, Pepco donated \$4,000 each to Friends of O'Malley and Friends of Anthony Brown, his running mate. In 2008, Pepco donated \$10,000 to state Democratic committee and \$10,000 to the state Republican committee. (Pepco contributions are according to the Maryland Campaign Finance Reporting System.)

Dominion donated \$52,500 to McDonnell's campaign and another \$50,000 to his inaugural committee. Dominion also gave \$80,000 to the campaign of state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D), \$26,500 to Ken Plum (D) for delegate, \$25,000 to Mark Sickles (D) for delegate, \$18,500 to

Toddy Puller (D) for Senate, \$17,000 to Mark Herring (D) for Senate, \$14,157 to Tim Hugo (R) for delegate, \$12,000 to Tom Rust (R) for delegate and \$11,000 to Janet Howell (D) for Senate, just to cover some of the larger, local contributions.

Does it matter? Given the history of power outages, it's unlikely anyone would want to trade service from Dominion for service from Pepco.

Gifts are another question. In Virginia, even if an official does violate the very limited rules on gifts, the code states that "Violations of this subdivision shall not be subject to criminal law penalties."

Call us naive, but we would have bet that neither Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli nor Gov. Bob McDonnell would be susceptible to taking gifts under dubious circumstances, yet both are in the news for having failed to report gifts totaling tens of thousands of dollars. McDonnell says disclosure of gifts to his immediate family members are not required. Cuccinelli says he forgot about some gifts he received.

The State Integrity Investigation is "designed to expose practices that undermine trust in state capitols — and spotlight the states that are doing things right." See <http://www.stateintegrity.org/virginia>

Virginia's access to information on campaign finance is overshadowed by "lax oversight rules, weak consumer representation protections, dwindling capitol press corps and coziness between political and economic elites. ... Meanwhile, the few ethics and disclosure requirements that do exist tend to be flawed, limited or fraught with exemptions and qualifications," according to the report.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Social Media Sharing ... With Caution

Editor's note: The following letter was first published Tuesday, April 16, as an opinion piece for the "Daily Gamecock," a student newspaper at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

To the Editor:

Everybody knows where the verbs "like," "share," "friend" and "favorite" belong today: Facebook and Twitter. With a click of a button, pictures that appeal to you are immediately shared to your followers. A couple shares later, that tweet or post becomes viral. And if it's something false or defamatory, you're now responsible for spreading an awful rumor.

Monday evening, April 15, after hearing the horrible news of the

Boston blasts, I noticed a tweet from the handle @HopeforBoston, which showed a picture of a young girl running on what looked like a residential road surrounded by grass. The tweet read, "R.I.P to the 8 year-old girl who died in Boston's explosions, while running for the Sandy Hook kids. #prayforboston."

I glanced again at the photo of the young girl and thought she looked familiar. I looked closely at the bib on her shirt and noticed the words "Joe Cassella 5k," which is an annual event held in my small hometown of Great Falls, Va. I thought this was suspicious, so I called my parents and friends who still live in the area to see if they knew anything about this. Before I knew it, this photo was all over Facebook, Tumblr and Instagram and had been retweeted more than 80,000 times. Little did users on social media know, the little girl was safely asleep in her home, not

knowing her face had circulated the Internet hundreds of thousands of times in just a few hours.

The photo, which was originally taken by a staff writer on my local high school's student newspaper, had mysteriously gone viral due to one false tweet by a suspicious source. In a few short hours the photo, along with @HopeforBoston, reached national news and was then suspended from Twitter. It's scary to think a picture from a small town's high school newspaper's website could receive national attention like this, and this incident illustrates the power of social media that many people choose to deny. It also brings into light another important point: We cannot believe everything we see on the Internet.

Unfortunately, the proliferation of this photo was just the start of conspiracies on the web about the Boston blasts. A photo of a man

who lost his leg and was being wheeled away Monday afternoon after the bombing was compared to a photo of a man who lost his legs in Afghanistan two years ago. While this photo also went viral on Facebook in minutes, it makes me wonder how many other fake photos are floating around the Internet.

With more than a billion users on Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms, it is inevitable that social media is an interactive and commonly used method of communication among people. That said, individuals must think before they tweet and remain extremely cautious about what they share on their social media pages.

Paula Novacki

Great Falls

The writer is a student at the University of South Carolina.

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NEWS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HERNDON NJROTC



Cadet Lana Truese receives feedback from US Marines on her platoon's performance during the "Inspection" platoon drill.

Herndon Cadets Host the Meet

Herndon High's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) hosted 10 other schools Saturday, April 27, to a drill meet designed for first year (NS-1) cadets to demonstrate their learning from older cadets in their programs. Under the watchful eyes of US Marines from HMX-1 (Marine Helicopter Squadron One), the new cadets performed platoon drills in Armed Standard, Unarmed Standard, Color Guard, and Inspection, and they also enjoyed an individual drill event. c/Lieutenant Commander Sean Sullivan and the senior staff coordinated and led the meet, which proved to be a positive learning opportunity for all. Coached by senior Chief John Maness, USN Ret., c/Lieutenant Lauren Truese, and varsity Drill Team members, the first year Herndon cadets earned second place in Color Guard, commanded by c/Petty Officer Third Class Allison Maxwell, and third in Inspection, led by c/Seaman Lana Truese. These victories, combined with their other scores, earned the team a fourth place in overall standing. Herndon's c/Seaman Sean Hagerup also medaled in the fun, individual drill event called Knockout, in which approximately 150 cadets attempted to maintain their bearing while US Marines walked among their ranks and shouted commands, some intended solely to invite error.

The annual meet is held in honor of the Herndon NJROTC's 1983 founder, Captain Fred Blakeman. During his tenure, the unit earned its first invitation to the Navy National Drill and Field Meet and was recognized for superior performance multiple times. The Captain Blakeman Meet is now considered the culminating event of months of hard work learning military preci-

sion, discipline and leadership. It's also an excellent opportunity for the new cadets to prove that they're ready to take on more responsibility in the coming school year.

Honor * Courage * Commitment: For more information about Herndon High's NJROTC program, visit <http://www.herndonnjrotc.com/>.



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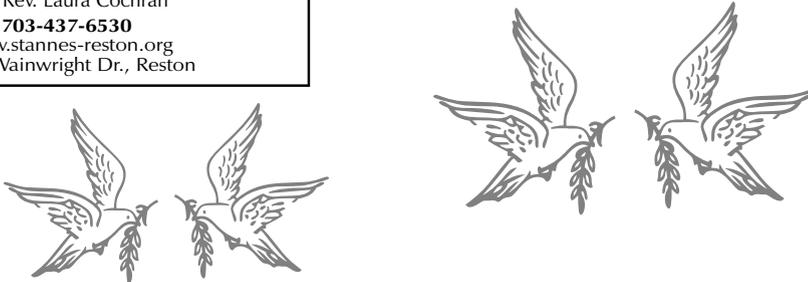
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The band Gonzo's Nose performs at the Herndon Friday Night Live Concert.



Volunteers assist at the drink concession stands at Herndon Friday Night Live.

Friday Night Live in Herndon

Gonzo's Nose opens new concert season on the Town Green.

By RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Friday, May 3, marked the first Friday Night Live concert of the season for the Town of Herndon. This popular concert series began with a performance by the band Gonzo's Nose, a Virginia-based band that has been performing since 1996.

This year is the 19th season of Friday Night Live. Like all previous shows, this performance was held on the Town Green between the Herndon Fortnightly Library and the Herndon Municipal Center. The annual series brings many cover bands to Herndon to perform with no tickets or reservations required.

Doug Downer, founder of Herndon's Friday Night Live, said: "I had been to a similar event in Norfolk. When I saw the plans for the Herndon Municipal Center, I pitched the event to Herndon Chamber of Commerce, and then to the Town of Herndon. They passed it, but thought it [Friday Night Live] would fail."

Friday Night Live is one of the most popular outdoor concert series in the D.C. area. The concert has been ranked as a "Must See" for Fairfax County, and it is recognized by the Virginia Tourism Corporation. Downer attributes much of the success to the volunteers.

"It is hard work but it is a lot of fun. The people back here make volunteering worthwhile," said volunteer Scott Jones.

"It [Friday Night Live] is a beautiful thing," said volunteer Allen Boichot. "I live in Chantilly. May is a huge month because everyone

has not yet left for vacations. We give people a chance to relax and take a break. It is not work, it is unbelievably fun."

Herndon Town Councilmember Grace Wolf was volunteering that evening at a drink concession stand. "All tips we take go to the all night Herndon High School graduation party," said Wolf.

"We have a tremendous group of long term volunteers," said Downer. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., Gonzo's Nose played pop music songs from musicians ranging from Michael Jackson to The B-52's and Poison. At 7:50 p.m. when the band took a short break Downer took the microphone to thank the concert sponsors. "Without our corporate sponsors we could not put on this event."

Downer first met his future wife while attending a Friday Night Live concert. The band performing that night was Gonzo's Nose, and song they were playing was "Hit Me With Your Best Shot."

While the bands perform on stage, attendees and audience can dine on food they bring to the event or purchase meals at the vending booths. No alcoholic beverages may be brought into the event, and no pets are allowed.

The next show on May 10 will feature bands Blue Label and South Bay. Friday Night Live is a completely volunteer run event and new volunteers are always welcome.

There won't be a Friday Night Live on Friday, May 31, because of the Herndon Festival. For more information about Friday Night Live or the scheduled entertainment, check out the website at www.Herndonrocks.com.



Food vendors are ready for customers at the Herndon Town Green during Friday Night Live.



Doug Downer (center), founder of Herndon Friday Night Live, speaks to the audience.

ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

129th Edition of Cole Bros. Circus of the Stars. 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. An American-style circus complete with elephants, tigers, aerialists and acrobats, magic and clowns. \$16. www.gotothecircus.com.

Step Out With the USO 2013. 6-11 p.m., at Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. A night of good food, dancing and fundraising with proceeds benefiting local USO programs and facilities including the USO Warrior and Family Center. \$50 per person; donations accepted and sponsorships available. 703-572-4876.

Reno and Harrell. 8 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Reno and Harrell is a band composed of the sons of the legendary bluegrass originals, Don Reno and Bill Harrell; the sons have now formed a new band dedicated to the music of their fathers and have kept the original name of the band as well. \$12. Free for children under 12. 703-435-8377 or kd4fue2@verizon.net.

33 Variations. 8 p.m., at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Reston Community Players presents the Tony Award-winning drama by Moises Kaufman following a Beethoven scholar driven to solve a mystery surrounding the genius composer's later years. Soon the musicologist's life, ALS diagnosis and relationship with her daughter begin to parallel her studies; concert pianist Hillary Van Wagenen Henry underscores the play. \$20; \$17 for students and seniors. www.rcp-tix.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Reston Youth Triathlon. 8 a.m., at South Lakes High School, 11400 S. Lakes Drive, Reston. Children ages 6 to 15 can swim at Ridge Heights pool, bike near South Lakes High School and run on Reston Association paths, finishing at the South Lakes stadium to focus on Mother's Day; packet pickup May 10. www.amysamigos.org.

129th Edition of Cole Bros. Circus of the Stars. 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. An American-style circus complete with elephants, tigers, aerialists and acrobats, magic and clowns. \$16. www.gotothecircus.com.

Concert of Classical Music of famous Italian Composers. 7:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. Professional musicians Robert Kelley and Susan Hayes will present a concert of beautiful classical music by Italian composers. 703-385-0814.

33 Variations. 8 p.m., at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Reston Community Players presents the Tony Award-winning drama by Moises Kaufman following a Beethoven scholar driven to solve a mystery surrounding the genius composer's later years. Soon the musicologist's life, ALS diagnosis and relationship with her daughter begin to parallel her studies; concert pianist Hillary Van Wagenen Henry underscores the play. \$20; \$17 for students and seniors. www.rcp-tix.com.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks VI. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman, tenor Brennen Guillory and soprano Joni Henson perform Wagner's "Prelude and Liebestod," Tristan and Isolde and Prelude to Act 3, Lohengrin;

Verdi's Overture to La Forza del Destino, Overture to I vespri siciliani, Love Duet Finale Act I Otello, "Dio ti giocondi, O Sposo" Otello, "Dio mi potevi, scagliar" Otello, Willow Song Otello and "Libiamo," La Traviata. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 12

The 129th Edition of Cole Bros. Circus of the Stars. 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. An American-style circus complete with elephants, tigers, aerialists and acrobats, magic and clowns. \$16. www.gotothecircus.com.

Sunday Afternoon Dances. 2:30-4:30 p.m., at RCG Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Dance and/or socialize at an afternoon featuring music of all genres; light refreshments served. \$3 for Reston residents; \$6 non-residents. www.RestonCommunityCenter.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 16

Popsicle Picnic and Membership Drive. 10 a.m.-noon, at Bready Park, 816 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Herndon-area mothers are invited to bring a picnic lunch to complement free bagels with coffee and popsicle treats for children as part of a membership drive; games are available for children. Herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

Opening Night: Party On. 6-9 p.m., at Town Center Pavilion, Reston Town Center, Reston. The party with live music, entertainment, a silent auction, signature cocktails and local prominent business leaders and elected officials, providing an opportunity for art lovers, sponsors, media, donors and for the public to celebrate to benefit the Greater Reston Arts Center's educational program; \$75-\$250. <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4769049355?buy=Purchase+Tickets#>.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

22nd Annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St., Reston. Contemporary artwork from over 200 artists in 16 categories. www.RestonArts.org or www.NorthernVirginiaFineArtsFestival.org.

American Cancer Society Relay for Life Reston. 1-9 p.m. for tennis, 8 p.m.-8 a.m. for walking, at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. One hour of tennis or walking the track for a \$10 donation; join the "Tennis Team for Life." 703-435-6502, www.restonrelay.org or relayforlife@restontennis.org.

Lonesome Highway. 7:30 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Lonesome Highway from Rormey, W. Va., perform traditional bluegrass music; barrier and smoke free facility; refreshments provided. \$12. Free for children under 12. 703-435-8377 or kd4fue2@verizon.net.

Opera for the People. 7:30 p.m., at Reston Community Center, 2401 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Vienna Choral Society and The Reston Choral present an accessible concert of Verdi and Copland. \$25; \$20 for seniors/students; free for youth 15 and under accompanied by an adult. www.viennachoralsociety.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 19

22nd Annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Reston Town Center, 12001 Market



Don Reno and Bill Harrell, the sons of the legendary Bluegrass Originals, have formed a new band dedicated to the music of their father. The band is performing at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Friday, May 10.

St., Reston. Contemporary artwork from over 200 artists in 16 categories. www.RestonArts.org or www.NorthernVirginiaFineArtsFestival.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 25

Cathy Ponton King: Blues and Sweet Ballads. 7 p.m., at the Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Cathy Ponton King and his team will perform some blues and ballads at VIVA! VIENNA I. 703-255-4742 or info@vivavienna.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 30

NVHC Speaker Series. 8 p.m., at Northern Virginia Hebrew

Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Leonard Saxe, Klutznick Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies and director of the Cohen Center for Jewish Modern Studies and the Steinhart Social Research Institute at Brandeis University, speaks on "The Future of Liberal Judaism in America: What We Can Learn from the Birthright Israel Generation." www.nhcreston.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

Jimmy Gaudreau and Moondi Klein. 7:30 p.m., at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. These two musicians will play bluegrass music they have been performing individually with many of the top bands of the genre such as The Country Gentleman and Chesapeake. Barrier and smoke free facility. Refreshments provided. \$15. Free for children under 12. 703-435-8377 or kd4fue2@verizon.net.

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Oakton junior forward Ben Cisse scored the lone goal in a 1-0 win over Westfield on Monday.



Oakton's Christian Ollen (8) and Westfield's Matt Lazor battle for the ball while Oakton's Patrick Moore (7) looks on during Monday's contest at Oakton High School.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton Boys' Soccer Finishes Regular Season Undefeated

Cougars beat Westfield on senior night.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Oakton boys' soccer team completed an undefeated regular season on Monday with a 1-0 victory against Westfield at Oakton High School.

While compiling an 11-0-2 record is a notable achievement, head coach Todd Spitalny said the Cougars hadn't talked about remaining unbeaten, instead choosing to focus on larger goals. In fact, the aspect of Monday's victory most likely to help Oakton's cause was simply the contest's competitive nature.

Prior to facing Westfield, the Cougars won five of their previous six games by at least three goals. Oakton was often able to relax late in games with victory all but assured.

On Monday, the Cougars were locked in a scoreless tie with the Bulldogs until junior forward Ben Cisse found the back of the net in the 68th minute.

"We haven't thought about the undefeated record once this year," Spitalny said. "That's not our goal. ... Our goal was to win the regular season and go after the district title [and] give ourselves a shot in the regional [tournament] and go from there. ... We're just starting to get guys back healthy so we're trying to mix guys back in, still. We're scoring a lot of goals, but part of our problem is we have not had to play our guys a full

"To grind out a game like this, this is really good for our team. We've been able to step back for the last 30, 40 minutes of each game, but this game, we really had to fight to the last whistle."

—Oakton senior Patrick Moore

game yet—other than [during ties against] Lake Braddock and Herndon—so tonight was great because we finally had to play the guys full force."

Prior to the Westfield win, Oakton's last five victories came against Wakefield, Centreville, Chantilly, Robinson and Yorktown by a combined score of 23-6.

"To grind out a game like this, this is really good for our team," senior midfielder Patrick Moore said. "We've been able to step back for the last 30, 40 minutes of each game. But this game, we really had to fight to the last whistle."

Westfield finished the regular season 3-7-3. "I thought we played really well,"

Westfield head coach Sean Lanigan said. " ... Our goal was to stop [Oakton senior midfielder] Patrick [Moore]. He was their big playmaker—and Christian [Ollen]—so we man-marked him with my captain and I thought he did an outstanding job. Patrick was not a factor in this game at all."

The Cougars earned the Concorde District's No. 1 seed. They will have a bye in the first round of the district tournament and are automatically in the Northern Region tournament.

Monday was senior night for Oakton. Defender Eddie Gerow, forward Jared Schulman, midfielders Moore and Ollen, defenders Sep Zomorodi and Jay Bundren and midfielder Daniel Helms were honored.

Sophomore forward Armand Jeffris is Oakton's leading goal-scorer.

With the arrival of the postseason, the Cougars have already reached some of their goals—and they just happened to be undefeated, as well.

"We have unfinished business," Spitalny said.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Herndon Girls' Laxers Earn All-district Honors

Eleven members of the Herndon girls' lacrosse team received all-Concorde District honors for the 2013 season.

Freshman attack Maureen Curran and junior midfielder Rachel Delmontagne were named to the first team. Sophomore attack Michelle Huchette, midfielders Kerry Curran (freshman) and Alexis Duke (sophomore) and goalkeeper Jessica Corum (freshman) were named to the second team. Junior midfielder Katherine Wilson, freshman attack Leanne Janowski, sophomore midfielder Katherine Dougherty, junior midfielder Alexandra Asack and junior midfielder Sarah Suter garnered honorable mention.

Herndon finished 6-8-1 in 2013, ending its season with a 17-16 loss to Robinson on Friday, May 3, in the quarterfinals of the Concorde District tournament.

Herndon Boys' Lax Ends Season

The Herndon boys' lacrosse team lost to Centreville 13-2 on Friday, May 3, in the Concorde District tournament quarterfinals, ending the Hornets' season.

Herndon finished with a 1-11 record. The Hornets beat Falls Church 15-8 on April 5.

Herndon Boys' Soccer Earns Regional Berth

The Herndon boys' soccer team finished 3-0-2 in Concorde District play, earning the No. 2 seed in the district tournament and a first-round bye. Herndon also received an automatic berth in the Northern Region tournament.

The Hornets defeated Robinson 2-0 on Monday, May 6, im-

proving their record to 8-1-3. Herndon will close the regular season at Yorktown at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8.

South Lakes Boys' Soccer Wins 11th Straight

The South Lakes boys' soccer team defeated Fairfax 1-0 on May 2, giving the Seahawks 11 consecutive victories.

South Lakes will close the regular season at home against Langley at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8.

South Lakes Boys', Girls' Lax End Season vs. Langley

The South Lakes boys' and girls' lacrosse teams each lost to Langley in the Liberty District tournament quarterfinals on Friday, May 3, ending their respective season.



Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke, suggests presenting mom with an array of bath and body treats to create a spa experience at home.



Moms with sophisticated palates might enjoy sipping from a hand-painted wine glass.



Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, says jewelry like bangles and charm bracelets are great for Mother's Day.

Mother's Day Gift Ideas

Suggestions for honoring mom on her special day.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Mother's Day is less than a week away. For some, choosing the perfect gift for mom can be a nerve-wracking exercise. If you're still looking for the perfect present, local style gurus offer suggestions that they say will please even the most discerning of women.

For stylish mothers, Allison Priebe Brooks of Queen Bee Designs in Alexandria, recommends the sentimentality of matching parent-child jewelry: "It is fun to match or coordinate fashions with your child, especially on Mother's Day," she said. "You can do that with dresses or bold prints, but you can also do it with your jewelry. Little girls love to dress up and match their mothers, and jewelry is one thing that just about always fits and it can be passed down from generation to generation."

A spa day at home will give exhausted moms a chance to unwind, says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Treat mom to a spa day at home [with] a new line bath line from The Charleston Soap Chef [which includes] lotion, hand and body wash, body butter and sugar scrub. We've been encouraging customers to put a few pieces together and pamper Mom without having to go to a spa."

Hand creams by Pre de Provence, rich in shea butter and available in crisp scents like lavender and verbena, are luxurious choices, said Angela Phelps, of Le Village Marche in Arlington. "Every woman can use a good hand crème in her purse," she said.

Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, said, "Perfumes, lotions and candles from lines including Lollia, Tocca and Niven Morgan are a luxurious treat for moms.

For those thinking ahead to summer, O'Shields suggests a brightly hued tote bag. "Scout bags are the perfect accessory for summer at the beach, baseball games and every day." She also suggests colorful handbags, wallets and tech accessories.

MOMS WITH SOPHISTICATED palates might enjoy sipping from a hand-painted wine glass. "For moms who enjoy relaxing with a glass of wine, hand-painted wine glasses are a great gift," said Thomas. "They are all hand-painted by a local artist and are available in a variety of colors and designs."

For moms who love jewelry, O'Shields suggests putting a ring on it — or even a bracelet. "Jewelry ranging from bangles and charm bracelets ... are great for Mother's Day." For a personal touch, she adds, "Engraved monogrammed charms and necklaces with children's initials are a special way to give Mom jewelry that reminds her of family. Precious Metal Prints include a kit for making a fingerprint mold that is then mailed to the artisan to transfer to a charm."

Epicureans with a penchant for entertaining would relish a cookbook line called "The Gathering of Friends," says Thomas. "It ... comes in five volumes, complete with table-setting ideas, shopping lists and beautiful photography. They are more than your typical cookbook."

Another idea for mothers who enjoy all things culinary: kitchen accessories. "If mom still has dishtowels from 40 years ago, why not swap them out for some new ones?" said Phelps of Le Village Marche. "I love ... vibrantly colored French towels from Jean Vier. Coming from the Basque region and made of 100 percent cotton jacquard, these oversized tea towels [32 inches by 23 inches] are beautifully and delicately woven. They can be machine-washed and dry wonderfully with no need for ironing."

For moms who enjoy photographing their offspring, O'Shields recommends the book "Photographing Your Children: A Handbook of Style and Instruction" by Jen Altman.

And for displaying those photographs, Thomas said, "We [have] ... frames ... that all have a sentimental words and saying and are a step beyond the traditional frame. They also have 'memory magnets' with a clip to attach a picture ... great for hanging pictures, notes and favorite art."

O'Shields said, "Picture frames make a wonderful gift and they are even more special when you take the time to have a picture printed and include it in the frame when you give the gift."

"For moms who enjoy relaxing with a glass of wine, hand-painted wine glasses are a great gift."

— Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke

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March, 2013 Top Sales in Great Falls and McLean

IN MARCH 2013, 26 GREAT FALLS HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$5,634,180-\$425,000 AND 82 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$9,300,000-\$186,500 IN THE MCLEAN AND FALLS CHURCH AREA.



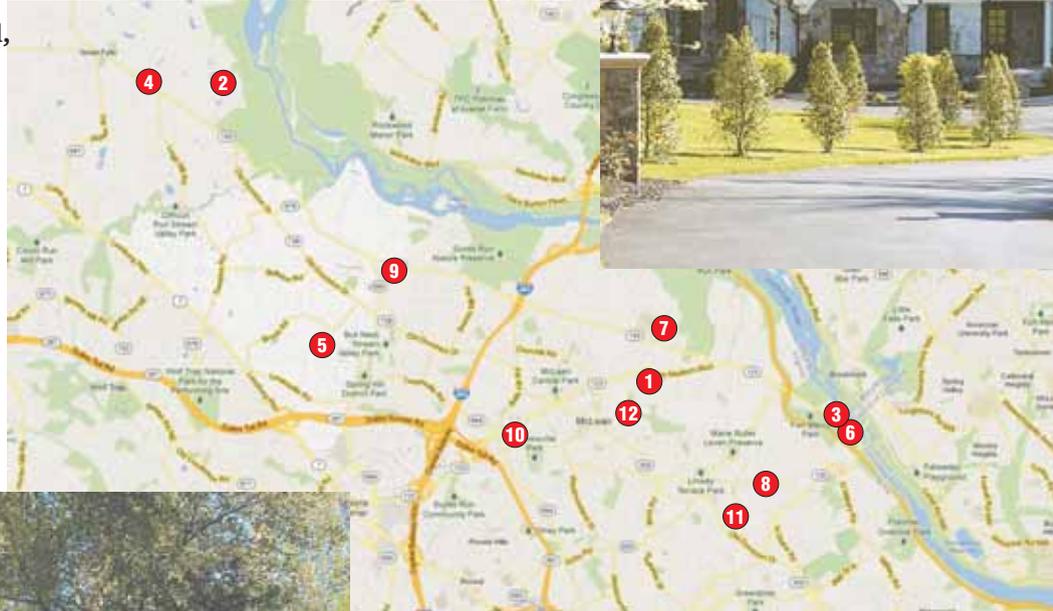
2 633 River Bend Road, Great Falls — \$5,634,180



3 626 Chain Bridge Road, McLean — \$5,175,000



4 9601 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls — \$3,850,000



© Google Map data



5 1165 Orlo Drive, McLean — \$3,675,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 1288 BALLANTRAE FARM DR	12	10	3	MCLEAN	.....	\$9,300,000	Detached	6.27	22101	BALLANTRAE FARMS	03/05/13
2 633 RIVER BEND RD	7	7	3	GREAT FALLS	..	\$5,634,180	Detached	5.00	22066	GREAT FALLS HEIGHTS	03/29/13
3 626 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	5	7	3	MCLEAN	.....	\$5,175,000	Detached	1.00	22101	CHAIN BRIDGE	03/21/13
4 9601 GEORGETOWN PIKE	6	6	3	GREAT FALLS	..	\$3,850,000	Detached	4.80	22066	NEW HOME	03/08/13
5 1165 ORLO DR	7	8	2	MCLEAN	.....	\$3,675,000	Detached	0.99	22102	WOODLEA MILL	03/25/13
6 407 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	5	5	2	MCLEAN	.....	\$3,600,000	Detached	1.92	22101	ARLINGWOOD	03/19/13
7 1005 TURKEY RUN RD	5	5	3	MCLEAN	.....	\$3,500,000	Detached	0.99	22101	LANGLEY HILL	03/25/13
8 1700 FOREST LN	6	5	3	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,620,000	Detached	0.51	22101	CHESTERBROOK WOODS	03/11/13
9 903 GEORGETOWN RIDGE CT	4	5	2	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,400,000	Detached	0.85	22102	GEORGETOWN RIDGE	03/29/13
10 1485 EVANS FARM DR	5	4	1	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,395,000	Detached	0.14	22101	EVANS FARM	03/11/13
11 0 FRANKLIN PARK RD	5	5	0	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,250,000	Detached	1.22	22101	COUNTRY ACRES	03/13/13
12 6520 TOPEKA RD	5	5	1	MCLEAN	\$2,100,000	Detached	0.40	22101	SALONA VILLAGE	03/29/13

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In the great room of this Great Falls home Andrea Houck, of A. Houck Designs, added window treatments to the wall of French doors and hung art over the fireplace to create a functional, but stylish space.



PHOTO BY LYDIA CUTLER

Creating Serene, Relaxing Spaces

Local interior designer talks color and comfort.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Even when Arlington-based interior designer Andrea Houck was a toddler, she seemed to have an eye for detail. When her parents updated their bedroom with new wallpaper, for example, it was their young daughter who noticed the pattern had been hung upside down.

After beginning a career in art direction and advertising, the North Carolina native shifted gears and turned childhood flair for detail into an interior design business. She began with the renovation of her own home.

"I transitioned from the two-dimensional world of art direction to the three-dimensional world of interior design," said Houck. "I always enjoyed the tactile world of graphic design that included drawings and once everything became so digitally based, I transitioned into interior design."

Houck describes her style as transitional and often eschews neutral colors in favor of lively hues. "I also like color and am not afraid to use it," she said. "And scale is one of the most important elements to good design. I pride myself on bringing out my client's aesthetic, making the spaces individual for that person. I also offer a range of styles, from traditional to more contemporary. My work reflects my disciplined approach to design as well as each client's personality and lifestyle."

The designer enjoys the challenge of beautifying public spaces, like a living room or dining room, while making them simultaneously chic and functional. She points to one example in the design of a great room in a home in Great Falls.

"This great room had a dual focus: the fireplace and the television," said Houck. "The challenge was updating the space to be family friendly with com-



PHOTO COURTESY OF A. HOUCK DESIGNS
Andrea Houck began her career with the renovation of her own home.

"I pride myself on bringing out my client's aesthetic, making the spaces individual for that person."

— Andrea Houck of A. Houck Designs

fortable fabrics while adding a punch of color. I added window treatments to the wall of French doors, art over the fireplace, and recovered some existing seating."

A master bedroom, study and porch that she designed for an Arlington family reflects her ability, said Houck, to incorporate a client's needs into a chic design. "The busy couple wanted a serene setting, so I updated the space with more storage, added a custom desk, dual chest of drawers with his and hers mirrors, upholstered headboard, seating with ottoman, wallpaper, lighting and custom colored rug."

The bedroom and bathroom of a Fairfax home also shows that she is not afraid to add a touch of whimsy. "In the bedroom, I removed carpet and installed hardwood flooring, updated the tray ceiling with moldings and chandelier. ... The bath was updated with a

new tub with jets, new vanity ... hand-painted tiles and marble floor."

Colleagues say one of Houck's greatest strengths is her ability to create room designs that reflect the homeowner's personality. "Andrea has always been one of my favorite designers in the Washington area," said Beverly Ross, who owns Beverly Ross Designs. "She is thorough and detailed, but also realizes that design should be fun."

Houck says she is passionate about donating her time and talent to charity and has joined design-related projects such Tuckahoe Home & Garden Tour in Arlington. This year, Houck was tapped to redesign a French modern bar and side hall in the 2013 DC Design House, which benefited Children's National Medical Center.

"She transformed the bar area into a must-see stop between the kitchen and dining room by adding antiqued mirrors, cool LED lighting, and an onyx countertop. She also faux-grained the cabinets, added handmade wallpaper and fantastic art," said Taylor Wells, the DC Design House designer liaison. "Her attention to detail was spot-on and the finished design is dazzling, just what a home of this caliber needed."

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- For more information, visit the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/fairfaxfamilies4kids.htm or contact Beverly J. Howard, Fairfax Families4Kids Coordinator, 703-324-7518, TTY 711. Beverly.Howard@fairfaxcounty.gov



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OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, MAY 11 & 12

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Chantilly	
42344 Astors Beachwood .. \$790,000 .. Sun 1-4 .. Chris Pezzana .. Weichert .. 703-447-1662	
Clifton	
7500 Maple Branch Rd .. \$830,000 .. Sun 1-4 .. Diane Lenahan .. Wolf Run .. 703-283-7328	
Dunn Loring	
7954 Arden Ct .. \$777,500 .. Sat 1-4 .. Mike Dotterweich .. RE/MAX .. 571-334-7406	
Fairfax Station	
6906 Winners Cir .. \$849,000 .. Sun 1-4 .. Morgan Knoll .. RE/MAX .. 202-431-9867	
11544 Clara Barton Dr .. \$710,000 .. Sun 1-4 .. Christine Shevock .. RE/MAX .. 703-475-3986	
Great Falls	
10906 Great Point Ct .. \$1,335,000 .. Sat 12-3 .. Leslie Thurman .. Long & Foster .. 703-895-6000	
Herndon	
12913 Alton Sq .. \$1,600 per mo .. Sun 1-4 .. Chris Pezzana .. Weichert .. 703-447-1662	
McLean	
7023 Old Dominion Dr .. \$1,699,000 .. Sat 2-4 .. Monica Gibson .. Keller Williams .. 703-944-3434	
1818 Barbee St .. \$689,000 .. Sun 1-4 .. Tracy Wilder .. McEneaney .. 703-599-1066	
Oakton	
10500 Samaga Dr .. \$998,500 .. Sun 1-4 .. Evelyn Petros .. Long & Foster .. 301-229-4000	
Springfield	
8203 Taunton Pl .. \$549,950 .. Sun 1-4 .. Kathleen Quintarelli .. Weichert .. 703-862-8808	
7255 Beverly Park Dr .. \$379,000 .. Sat 1-4 .. Fatana Barak .. Samson Props .. 571-218-2507	
Sterling	
4 Newland Ct .. \$399,900 .. Sun 12-3 .. Patrick Seville .. Samson Props .. 703-297-5855	
Vienna	
1622 Lozano Dr .. \$729,000 .. Sun 1-4 .. Dane Work .. RE/MAX .. 703-869-4567	
115 Follin Ln SE .. \$679,900 .. Sun 1-4 .. Mary Kimball .. Coldwell Banker .. 703-938-5600	

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Pechacek-Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

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Fairfax Water

FAIRFAX COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY Notice of Public Hearing

Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Easements Necessary for Public Purposes by Eminent Domain or Other Means

May 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

The Fairfax County Water Authority will hold a public hearing pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-1903 on at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2013, to receive public comments on a proposed Resolution authorizing the acquisition of easements necessary for the improvement and expansion of Fairfax Water's water system infrastructure adjacent to sections of the Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1) in Fairfax County. The improvement and expansion is required to provide adequate capacity to serve existing and future customers. The necessary easements are to be located across several parcels of land adjacent to U.S. Route 1, more particularly described as Fairfax County Tax Map Parcels 083-3-01-0037, 083-3-01-0038, 083-3-01-0040, 083-3-01-0041, 083-3-08-B, 093-1-01-0019, 093-1-01-0025, 093-1-16-0013, 092-2-18-06-0001A, and 093-1-18A-0001. Following the public hearing, the Water Authority Board may vote on or after June 6, 2013, to adopt the proposed Resolution.

The proposed Resolution and other related information can be viewed at Fairfax Water's Website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org>.

The public hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed resolution should call Eva Catlin at (703) 289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
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All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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-William Van Horne

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Manifest Destiny



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Are the miscellaneous symptoms I'm feeling, physically, the cancer manifesting itself or rather is it simply yours truly aging semi gracefully and realizing my "Star-Trekkian" destiny: Living long and prospering (I equate above average/unexpected good health with prospering), despite my less-than-encouraging, original NSCLC (stage IV) diagnosis and subsequent "terminal" prognosis? Or am I, as I have said many times before, "a victim of soy-cum-stance?" Not one to ever look a gift horse in the mouth or not quote/invoke/refer to Star Trek, The Three Stooges, M*A*S*H or Seinfeld whenever possible; nevertheless, as you regular readers have come to realize about this or perhaps any "terminal" patient with whom you've had any interaction: Being able to control what we think and in turn how we sometimes behave; selfishly, irrationally, illogically; and dare I admit, incoherently, is a bit unrealistic. Although, we try to try; more often than not, we fail (at least I do). Being diagnosed with a type of cancer for which there is, at present, no known cure leads to a sort of emotional incontinence (my made-up phrase): everything doesn't exactly come out as planned and there may not be a Depends-type of solution for it.

I'm not suggesting or implying that "terminal"/diagnosed-with-incurable cancer patients are unable or even unwilling to censor themselves or act reasonably, responsibly, intelligently, etc., in the face of presumptive certain death, it's more that when something (a normal life expectancy) is adversely affected – through the randomness of life, the impact on your brain/thought processes is incalculable. It's akin to attempting to describe the taste of milk: You know what you're supposed to do, but you just can't do it. And what makes this circumstance even more challenging – to me, is the longer I live, post-diagnosis, the less I'm inclined to even care about trying to "do it." When your future/destiny is snatched away from you – unfairly or not, all bets are off and predicting any kind of consistent behavioral adherence to societal norms from us lucky-to-be-alive survivors might be expecting a bit too much.

Oh sure, we'll have our moments – and manners and mores where it appears as if the cancer is having a minimal effect; however, at the end of the day – and night, during those private, only-you-know-what-you're-feeling bouts of depression, control or rather your lack thereof, will likely rear its ugly emotional head. It's not so much traumatic as it is familiar and surely enough, as the old saying goes: This familiarity definitely breeds contempt.

And so it becomes a constant battle. Not exactly good versus evil but more so: What's fact and what's fiction? What's truth and what's a consequence? And most importantly, what's cancer and what's simply being the age you are. I always default to the latter – for obvious reasons, but for all I know, it could be the former.

I suppose at this juncture, given the recent death of Allan Arbus, who played psychiatrist Sidney Freedman on the long-running television show, M*A*S*H, perhaps I should follow his most famous advice: "Pull your pants down and slide on the ice." And chill. Life's too short. (Don't I know it!)

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

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